

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, August 12, 2008 6:00 p.m.
Hooker Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: George Huntington, Jim Sherman, Paul Schneller, John Hamilton,
Christine Glaser, Steve Ashkin, Cynthia Schultz

Regrets: Robert Bent, Dave Rollo, Toby Strout

Staff Present: Adam Wason, Ryan Hargis

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. Christine Glaser adjusted a quote within July's minutes. Other minor changes were made to the minutes. The minutes were then motioned to be approved, and were accepted unanimously.

Public Comment:

Mark Haggerty addressed the commission with some concerns about recycling programs in Bloomington. He suggested that Bloomington have a central recycling center located within the downtown area. Specifically, he suggested a place where building materials can be reused and obtained. George Huntington suggested working with BMI, a location just east of City Hall as a possible place for a facility of this kind. Mr. Haggerty mentioned that he spoke to some business owners about this project.

Announcements:

John Hamilton announced that he and Kelly Boatman delivered the transportation letter to Mayor Kruzan. He also discussed the City of Marion, Indiana explaining that the city made its public transportation system free by executive order of the Mayor. The Commission discussed how this is possible and where a program like this will go in the future. The commission decided to look into this as a possible discussion topic.

George Huntington announced that Bloomingfoods, one of the local food co-ops in Bloomington, is involved in a national initiative on eating local food. He stressed the need for the consumption of locally grown food.

Christine Glaser was contacted by a business student who is interested in volunteering with the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability. Christine noted that he can be available to work 15 hours a week. The group agreed to involve him in some way. She also received a request from the Caldwell Center for Culture and Ecology which asked for a letter of support from BCOS on a grant through the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County. The request is for retrofitting office and meeting space to be more sustainable. Many commission members were concerned with the time constraints for this letter. Christine offered to draft something to send to Adam and John for approval. The commission agreed that Christine drafting a recommendation would be best.

Steve Ashkin announced that his workshop on Green Cleaning is tomorrow, August 13th. He provided the commission with a handbook that will be associated with the workshop. He said that he has been struggling with a lack of attendance. Steve stressed that he would have

conducted the seminar regardless of number of people attending. Steve noted that the lesson is the need for marketing and promoting. Other commission members also suggested that hosting the workshop in August may have led to a lower number of attendees.

Adam then briefly mentioned that the first meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Committee of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce is to occur on August 27th. Both Adam Wason and Steve Ashkin will be participating in this committee.

Adam informed the commission that Jeff Mease has left BCOS. John highlighted and summarized Mr. Mease's resignation letter. John addressed the need for diversity on the Commission. He wanted the record to note that the BCOS appreciates Jeff Mease's work.

Approval of SAR:

Adam addressed some last minute changes and revisions that were made to the Sustainability Assessment Report. After the discussion of these changes, John addressed the rewrite of the introduction letter. The introduction was rewritten to include the specific ordinance that created the BCOS. John felt that it sounds like "ordinance language" and he suggested that we rework the introduction to be a bit more personable.

Regarding the Executive Summary, Steve stated that he would like to have the BCOS members' names added. He felt that when people sign their name to something they take it more seriously. Jim Sherman suggested putting names on the cover.

John redirected the discussion to any other changes. Paul then added a change to indicator number nine. The commission agreed on the change.

Adam explained that he would like to make sure the data that will be included in an addendum on Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the SAR is correct and comparable to previously completed inventories. He noted that gathering this data is a very time consuming process and possibly may not be completed by the end of August. Adam will send an email by the end of the week that will say if the data will be included.

John asked the commission if contact information will remain on the SAR. The group agreed to take out the contact information. The Commission then discussed how to thank Jenny Sumner and others who helped with the preparation of this report.

Paul Schneller gave Adam edits on the introduction letter. Adam and John will finish edits and revisions to the letter.

Steve motioned to approve the SAR after final changes are made. The motion was seconded by Paul Schneller. After a vote, the SAR was approved unanimously.

Discussion on Future Guest Speakers:

Cynthia motioned to table this discussion to the retreat. After a second and a vote, the group agreed to table this conversation.

Retreat Agenda Approval:

John began by asking for a status report on the retreat.

Adam explained specifics of the retreat. He noted that from the people he spoke with there has been no facilitator available. The retreat will be held at the Ivy Tech Old Train Depot building just south of City Hall. Adam said that he does not think the new appointment to the commission will be able to be made before the retreat.

Adam suggested the retreat date be moved to allow time to secure a facilitator, and so that the new member can be in attendance. He explained the importance of having a facilitator.

Christine suggested Andy Mahler and George contributed Suzie Henkel for possible options for facilitators at the retreat.

George motioned to have Adam contact the two potential facilitators and then get back to the commission. If neither facilitator can make it, the retreat will be pushed back to another date.

Ken Beckley was mentioned by Cynthia as a possible facilitator for the retreat.

John summarized the retreat agenda for the commission members to discuss. He explained each topic. Jim Sherman added that the group should not review the mission statement because rewording it can take up too much time. No one disagreed with this idea.

Steve noted that the group should work from the 'bottom-up', and that there should be a goal that needs to be met at the retreat.

Paul stated that he wants to come out of the retreat with each person's action steps for the upcoming year.

John agreed that the commission needs to work within a conceptual framework and determine actions items for the year, but that making this the main topic for the bulk of the time at the retreat may not be the best plan of action.

Paul explained that the city does not have a sustainability policy or mission; the city has this commission. Thus, looking at the conceptual part is important. Jim added to the discussion of the conceptual approach. He felt action is much better.

Christine stated that there is merit to some talk about conceptual topics; however, it may not be right for the retreat. She noted that maybe this could be a goal for coming out of the retreat.

Steve said he sees points about both conceptual and action based topics; however, conceptual topics maybe too large a discussion for the retreat.

Paul contributed a document, minutes from the last indicators committee, that he would like to add to the agenda. He explained that there are some very specific things that can be looked at from this document.

John redirected discussion to how time should be allocated at the retreat. He suggested cutting the mission statement time to fifteen minutes. He asked for overall reactions on time. Steve felt that the discussion on the mission statement should be cut to ten minutes. John suggested combining the time spent on the conceptual framework and the mission statement. Cynthia felt that those topics do not go together. Steve recommended continuing offline discussion on this topic.

Discussion of City Projects/Staff Reports

Adam noted he will submit a document to the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns on a green community award for the City of Bloomington. He will provide the commission a copy of this report.

Committee Reports

- a. The Initiatives Committee had no report.
- b. Christine reported good attendance at the rain gardens event. She also noted that there will be another energy event on Monday August 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

The next meeting of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability will be on September 9th, 2008 in the McCloskey room of City Hall at 6pm.